

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:

**BACKGROUND**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0005]:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] ~~The invention is therefore based on the object of developing~~ An object of the present invention is to provide an the engine hood ~~which is known from EP 1 093 980 B1 in such a way~~ that provides a substantially homogeneous a force level ~~which is as homogeneous as possible is achieved~~ over the engine hood in the event of pedestrians colliding with the vehicle. ~~At the same time~~ A further or alternate object of the invention – given a predetermined form of the engine block and the outer paneling – ~~the largest possible~~ is to provide a substantially large deformation movement by which the engine hood can yield in the event of a pedestrian colliding with the vehicle without hitting the engine block ~~is to be achieved~~.

Please delete paragraph [0006]

Please add the following new paragraph before paragraph [0007]:

[0006.1] The present invention provides an engine hood for motor vehicles which has a deformable head impact zone to protect pedestrians in the event of a collision with the motor vehicle. The engine hood includes an outer shell, which is formed by the body paneling, and at least one inner shell, which is arranged below the outer shell and is connected to the outer shell, characterized in that the inner shell has a stiffening region which is provided with a vaulted structure. The vaulted structure is being formed by local folding with only an insignificant increase in the surface area of the material.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0018]:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0022]:

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**